SYMPOSIUM

Why does The Unabomber love Visual Basic?
Because he hates technology.
— Anonymous

I love that one. It has all the elements of a great belly laugh. It's short, topical, and has that cruel edge a joke needs to really draw blood. Cruel because it rings true — as any VB-to-Delphi convert can attest.

The tone was only slightly more serious at the First Annual *Delphi Informant* Readers Choice awards dinner, where representatives of the best third-party Delphi tools were presented with lovely tokens of your affection. However, there is no affectionate term for the award itself — a handsome Lucite tower encapsulating the *DI* "Big D" and its happy electron satellites (a dire warning of a radiation leak or the first image in an "Our Friend the Atom" slideshow, depending on your mood). No candidate jumps to the forefront. For example, a "Dimmy" (from *Delphi Informant* Magazine) doesn't sound like something you'd really like to win. Obviously there's work to be done in this area. Or perhaps I should heed today's chic admonition and simply "not go there."

Woll2Woll Software's Roy Woll graciously accepts the *Delphi Informant* Readers Choice Product of the Year award.

The important thing is that there *is* a happy, healthy, and still burgeoning third-party market for Delphi. This is especially remarkable given the fact that Delphi is just over a year old. Product of the Year was a runaway with Woll2Woll Software's InfoPower taking top honors. Other winners included Pacheco and Teixeira's *Delphi Developer's Guide* for Best Delphi Book, and Successware International's Apollo Rock-E-T for Best Delphi Add-In (see the April *DI* for all the winners).

And despite the fact the *DI* Readers Choice Awards weren't for them, *the* three top members of the Delphi development team — Delphi Chief Architect, Anders Hejlsberg; Director of Delphi Product Management, Zack Urlocker; and Director of Delphi Development, Gary Whizin — were kind enough to attend the festivities.

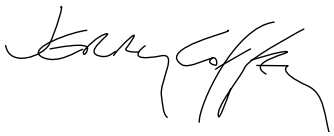
Actually, our little affair must have been a bit of a let down for the threesome, since earlier that evening they'd accepted the Jolt Cola award for Technical Excellence, beating an impressive array of competitors including white-hot Java, Symantec C++, and Visual Basic (okay, so *most* of the competitors were impressive).

But if it was anticlimactic for the Borland crew, they never let on. Come to think of it, it was probably just the thing after receiving the Jolt Cola award. The Delphi team took

Zack Urlocker, Director of Delphi Product Management, and Delphi creator, Anders Hejlsberg arriving at the *Delphi Informant* Readers Choice Awards. They'd just left the Jolt Cola awards where Delphi won for Technical Excellence.

home an industry award for themselves, and then looked on as the community they created was honored for its achievements. 'Course the fajitas and margaritas didn't hurt.

Thanks for reading,



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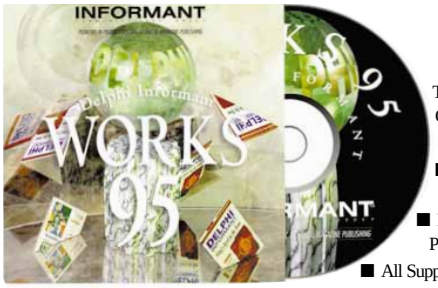

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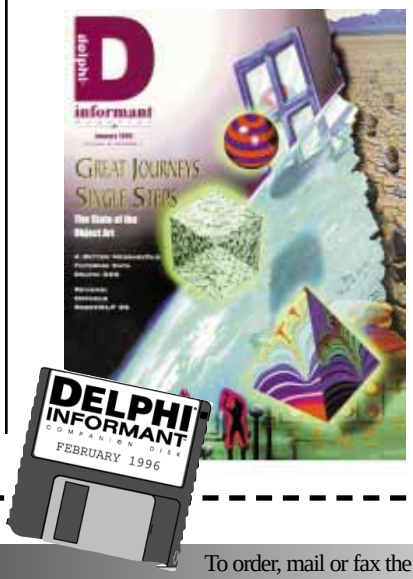

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